

NSC BRIEFING

12 June 1957

TRUCE IN YUGOSLAV-SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL WAR

- I. The Kremlin leaders have now damped down, at least temporarily, the polemics aimed at Tito and his brand of communism.
- A. Belgrade has welcomed this with enthusiasm.
 - B. Neither side has given in, however, on the basic issues--the right of any country to its own independent brand of communism.
- II. Khrushchev stated in mid-April that the two countries should concentrate on what unites them and not what divides them.
- A. The Soviet leaders also reportedly told the Satellite communist parties that they should try "for the time being" to improve relations with Yugoslavia, despite ideological differences.
 - B. There are also unconfirmed reports that discussions have been renewed in Moscow on the large credits which the USSR promised Yugoslavia last year, but unilaterally "postponed" in February.
- III. The Yugoslavs, in public, seem happy with new Soviet line.
- A. Tito has stated that, since Soviet leaders have responded to Yugoslav initiatives, there now should be good relations despite some "slight" ideological differences.
 - B. But the Belgrade press is deliberately emphasizing the right of every communist country to its "own road to socialism."
 - 1. This appears to be a deliberate needling of Moscow to see whether the Kremlin is in fact ready to make any real concessions on the basic issue.

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